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219.39285X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Gary L. McAlpine
Serial No.: New Application
Filed: March 29, 2001
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A TRAFFIC OPTIMIZING
MULTI-STAGE SWITCH FABRIC NETWORK
Art Unit: Unassigned
Examiner: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 29, 2001

Sir:

Prior to initial examination on the merits, please amend
the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the Abstract of the Disclosure and enter
the Abstract of the Disclosure attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3, 9, 14, 18, 23, 25, 28, 31, 33, 36,
38, 41, 44 and 47-49 as follows:

3. (Amended) The switch element of claim 2, wherein
said three-dimensions comprise:

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